

its maintaining at the desired temperature being afterwards ensured by the magnetic field of the inductive crucible.

9.(AMENDED) A silicon refining installation[, characterized in that it includes]

comprising:

a cold inductive crucible (1) adapted to receiving the silicon;

an inductive plasma torch (2) directed towards the free surface of the silicon load contained in the crucible; and

a removable magnetic yoke (3) between the plasma torch (2) and the crucible (1), the yoke being ring-shaped to enable the passing of the plasma flame (f).

10.(AMENDED) The installation of claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the crucible (1) includes, at its bottom, an aperture (14) having its opening controlled by an electromagnetic valve (5).

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. The transition phrases of claims 1-10 have been amended to conform to U.S. practice and claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been further amended to eliminate improper multiple dependencies.

No fees are believed due as a result of this Preliminary Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account number 50-1057.

Respectfully submitted,



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